

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election between Group I (claims 1-3) and Group II (claims 4-10).

Applicant hereby elects Group I in the above application. This election is made with traversal of the restriction requirement.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification and to recite proper antecedent basis only. This amendment is not made for the purposes of patentability and not in response to any rejection by the Examiner. No new matter is introduced hereby and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

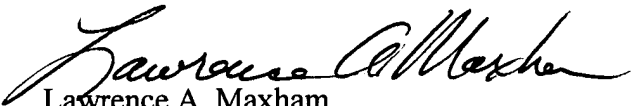
The basis for restriction as stated by Ms. Lazor is that the process (claims 1-3) may be practiced by hand instead of automatically (M.P.E.P. §806.05(e)), and that the classifications are different. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration on the basis that the non-elected claims include "means" for practicing the process. As such, these claims are considered "linking claims" and should be examined with the elected claims (M.P.E.P. §806.05(e)). For example, claim 4 recites "clamping means" in lines 13 and 17. In addition, claims 5-10 also recite "clamping means."



Accordingly, withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested along with rejoinder of the non-elected claims. If any issues remain unresolved, Examiner Lazor is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHANN SCHLÜSSELBAUER

By: 
Lawrence A. Maxham
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 24,483

THE MAXHAM FIRM

Symphony Towers
750 "B" Street, Suite 3100
San Diego, California 92101
Telephone: (619) 233-9004